

I CLAIM:

1. A method of recording a set of votes cast by a voter on a paper ballot comprising the steps of:
 - (a) creating an electronic representation of an apparent set of votes cast by the voter, the apparent set of votes being an interpretation of voter intent based on the voter's interaction with the paper ballot;
 - (b) disclosing to the voter the apparent set of votes cast;
 - (c) receiving from the voter an indication whether to accept or reject the set of votes in the disclosure;
 - (d) providing the voter opportunity to replace or correct the apparent set of votes as cast until the voter accepts the set of votes in the disclosure; and
 - (e) counting the votes when the set is accepted by the voter.
2. The method in Claim 1 comprising the further step of:
 - (a) creating an electronic record of the accepted votes for use in subsequent recounts.
3. The method in Claim 2 wherein the electronic record of the accepted votes is recorded as a machine-readable barcode.
4. The method in Claim 2 comprising the further steps of:
 - (a) reading the electronic record of the accepted votes;
 - (b) comparing the votes based on the reading of the electronic record of the accepted votes with the counted accepted votes; and
 - (c) providing appropriate procedures correct any disparity between the recorded votes and the counted votes.
5. The method in Claim 1 comprising the further step of:
 - (a) creating a printed receipt for the voter showing the accepted votes.
6. The method in Claim 1 wherein votes are cast by making marks on a paper ballot.

7. The method in Claim 6 wherein the electronic representation of the apparent set of votes cast by the voter is obtained through a digitized image of the ballot captured by a scanning device.

8. The method in Claim 1 wherein the votes are cast by using a device to punch holes in a paper ballot.

9. A method to accurately reconstruct a count of votes made by a plurality of voters after an initial counting, comprising the steps of:

- creating an electronic record of the votes cast by each voter;
- reading the electronic record of each voter;
- comparing the votes read from the electronic record of each voter with the votes that are going to be included in the initial counting;
- providing a procedure to correct any disparity between the votes from the electronic record and the votes to be included in the initial counting; and
- reconstructing the count of votes by tallying the electronic records.

10. A method to accurately reconstruct a count of votes made by a plurality of voters using paper ballots after an initial counting of the votes from the ballots, comprising the steps of:

- creating an electronic record of the votes cast on each ballot prior to the initial counting;
- reading the electronic record of each ballot;
- comparing the votes read from the electronic record of each ballot with the votes from the ballot that are going to be included in the initial counting;
- providing appropriate procedures to correct any disparity between the votes from the electronic record and the votes to be included in the initial counting; and
- reconstructing the count of votes by tallying the electronic records.

11. The method in Claim 10 wherein the electronic record is recorded on each ballot by a printed barcode.

12. An apparatus for recording a set of votes cast by a voter on a paper ballot comprising:

- (a) means for creating an electronic representation of the apparent set of votes cast by the voter, the apparent set of votes being an interpretation of voter intent based on the voter's interaction with the paper ballot;
- (b) means for disclosing to the voter the apparent set of votes cast, means for receiving from the voter an indication whether to accept or reject the apparent set of votes in the disclosure; means for providing the voter opportunity to replace or correct the apparent set of votes as cast until the voter accepts the vote as indicated in the disclosure; and
- (c) means for counting the votes when the set is accepted by the voter.

13. The apparatus in Claim 12 further comprising:

- (a) means for creating an electronic record of the accepted votes for use in subsequent recounts.

14. The apparatus in Claim 13 further comprising:

- (a) a device capable of printing the electronic record in the form of a barcode.

15. The apparatus in Claim 13 further comprising:

- (a) means for reading the electronic record of the accepted votes; and
- (b) means for comparing the votes cast based on the reading of the electronic record of the accepted votes with the accepted votes.

16. The apparatus in Claim 12 further comprising:

- (a) means for printing a receipt report showing the accepted votes.

17. The apparatus in Claim 12 further comprising:

- (a) means for reading marks made by the voter on the paper ballot to indicate the votes cast.

18. The apparatus in Claim 17 wherein the means for reading marks made by the voter on the paper reads a digitized image of the ballot.

19. The apparatus in Claim 12 further comprising::

- (a) means for reading holes caused to be made in the paper ballot by action of the voter in order to indicate the votes cast.

20. An apparatus to accurately reconstruct a count of votes made by a plurality of voters after an initial counting, the apparatus comprising:

- (a) means for creating an electronic record of the votes cast by each voter;
- (b) means for reading the electronic record of the votes cast by each voter, means for comparing the votes read from the electronic record of each voter with the votes that are going to be included in the initial counting;
- (c) means for correcting any disparity between the votes read from the electronic record of each voter and the votes that are going to be included in the initial counting; and reconstructing the count of votes by tallying the electronic records.

21. An apparatus to accurately reconstruct a count of votes made by a plurality of voters using paper ballots after an initial counting of the votes from the ballots, the apparatus comprising:

- (a) means for creating an electronic record of the votes cast on each ballot prior to the initial counting;
- (b) means for reading the electronic record of each ballot; means for comparing the votes read from the electronic record of each ballot with the votes from the ballot that are going to be included in the initial counting;
- (c) means for correcting any disparity between the votes from the electronic record and the votes to be included in the initial counting; and
- (d) means for reconstructing the count of votes by tallying the electronic records.